

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 9, 16, 23 and 26-28 are amended. Applicant respectfully notes that claims 1, 7, 9 and 16 are only amended to correct minor informalities. No claims have been cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1-22 are allowable and that claims 27 and 28 include allowable subject matter.

The Applicant also respectfully notes that the present action does not indicate that certified copies of all priority documents have been received by the USPTO. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's next communication include an acknowledgement of the receipt of certified copies of all priority documents that were filed with the application on January 26, 2004.

The Applicant also respectfully notes that the present action does not indicate that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's next communication include an indication as to the acceptability of the filed drawings or as to any perceived deficiencies so that the Applicants may have a full and fair opportunity to submit appropriate amendments and/or corrections to the drawings.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Magome (U.S. Patent No. 5,566,128, herein Magome), or Taguchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,339,273, herein Taguchi), or Proebsting (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,653, herein Proebsting). Further, claims 23-26

stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Vogelsang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,492, herein Vogelsang). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons detailed below.

Independent claim 23 is amended to include features of dependent claim 27, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter on page 5, lines 4-7 of the Office Action mailed September 15, 2005. In particular, amended independent claim 23 now recites, *inter alia*, “a sensing unit for sensing voltage levels of one pair of signals selected from the at least two pairs; and a latching unit for precharging first and second nodes in response to a clock signal and controlling voltage levels of the first and second nodes in response to a sensing result of the sensing unit.”

Further, independent claim 26 is amended to include features of dependent claim 28, which was also indicated as including allowable subject matter on page 5, lines 4-8 of the Office Action mailed September 15, 2005. In particular, amended independent claim 26 recites, *inter alia*, “sensing voltage levels of the selected signal pair; precharging first and second nodes in response to a clock signal; controlling the voltage levels of the first and second nodes in response to the sensing.”

Applicant respectfully submits that the features of previously filed dependent claims 27 and 28 that are now included in amended independent claims 23 and 26 patentably distinguish amended independent claims 23 and 26 over the cited references for at least the same reasons that resulted in the previously filed dependent claims 27 and 28 being indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed September 15, 2005. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the cited references Magome, Taguchi, Proebsting

and Vogelsang fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least the above-identified features of amended independent claims 23 and 26.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-28 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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